

**Gulf of Mexico Program  
November 6-7, 2002  
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting  
Summary**

**Submitted to**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Oceans and Coastal Protection Division  
Washington, D.C.**

**and**

**U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program  
Stennis Space Center, MS**

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**Prepared by**

**Battelle  
397 Washington Street  
Duxbury, MA 02332  
(781) 934-0571**



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**1. Roll Call - Opening Remarks and Introductions**

Nine regular members and six alternates established a quorum. Action Items are listed in Attachment A. A copy of the agenda is included as Attachment B, and the attendee list as Attachment C. Jennyfer Smith introduced Melissa Manley of Battelle as the new Project Assistant to the CAC.

**2. Approval of Meeting Summaries**

A call for approval of the November 7-8, 2001 meeting summary was made by the chair. There were no objections and the summary was approved.

A call for approval of the June 11-13, 2002 meeting summary was made by the chair. There were no objections and the summary was approved.

**3. Chair Report: Follow-up on CAC Action Items**

Jim Kachtick, Chair

A letter to Terry Teague, thanking her for her work on the CAC, was produced by Jean Westbrook. A consensus to proceed was reached and the letter was signed by the committee members. Melissa Manley will send the letter to Terry.

Copies of the Resolution for Louisiana Coastal Wetland Loss were passed out and a consensus was asked for based on the presentation that was made at the June 2002 meeting. Jean Westbrook gave a recap of the issue. The CAC indicated that they recognized its' importance, and consensus was reached.

Drew Puffer received the resignation of Louisiana (alternate for agriculture) committee member Paul Coreil. Jim Kachtick stated that the delegation from Louisiana needs to choose a replacement for Paul before the next meeting.

**4. Action Items**

The Participation Tracking form is on the website. Jennyfer has been making an effort to get participation information monthly. The importance of the participation reports to the FACA process was discussed, as contact with constituencies is tracked, and any relation the work of the committee has on its environmental

agenda is tracked, for purposes of reporting out on CAC performance goals. Participation reports are one method of showing that goals were achieved.

## **5. CAC Projects Report**

Drew Puffer, GMPO/Jennyfer Smith, Battelle

Jennyfer Smith gave an update on CAC Projects. The website has been updated, and will continue to be updated as needed. Members will be notified when the updates have been made. A Letter to Alternates was distributed in the November, 2002 briefing books, for CAC members use.

Please send announcements to Terry Hines-Smith to post to the interactive web bulletin board (e.g., dates, times, places of meetings/conferences, etc.). There is a color page with links on the website for the Coastal Bird Trail Project.

Drew reviewed the GMP Presentation which was also supplied as black and white hard copies in the CAC briefing book. Comments are requested of members before a final version will be distributed.

## **6. Dockwatch Presentation**

Monty Graham, Dockwatch, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Alabama

Monty Graham gave a presentation on the various impacts of jellyfish blooms on the economy, fishing industry, and human health. For example, jellyfish can have a negative impact on industry by clogging intake valves of industrial plants, or clog shrimp nets.

Blooms have been on the increase world wide, yet there seems to be great variability year-to year, making prediction more difficult. Dockwatch is an organization dependant upon volunteers to make jellyfish observations in the Gulf of Mexico (i.e. location, size, frequency.) A copy of Monty Graham's Powerpoint presentation is included as Attachment D.

## **7. The Bridges Golf Club Presentation**

Chris Altese, The Bridges Golf Club, Bay St. Louis, MS

The Bridges Golf Course is an 18-hole Palmer Signature Course which incorporates wetlands, turf and natural grasses with an environmental monitoring strategy and an integrated pest management policy in order to operate as the first resort course in the world to achieve Audubon International Silver Signature status. Wildlife conservation, habitat enhancement, and a policy of water conservation and energy efficiency all contribute

to the sites appearance and its ability to provide research and educational opportunities. Please see Attachment E for more Information.

## **8. GMP Directors Report**

Bryon Griffith, Acting Director, Gulf of Mexico Program

Bryon's presentation of the past year's progress was given and an open discussion followed. FY2003 Funding (2003-2005) is tied to the GMP performance. In the past years the GMP has been successful in achieving goals, assessing the needs of the stakeholders and figuring how to meet those needs.

The Invasive Species Focus team is no longer a function of the GMPO, but it is still an important issue in the Gulf region, (e.g. the Gulf Guardian award was given to a program to eradicate the invasive species Brazilian Pepper in a coastal area of Florida). In an effort to centralize the issue into one organization, the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission will pick up the Invasive Species issue as a focus, taking the administrative burden off of the GMP. In this way, less duplication of programs and monitoring will occur. Ron Lukens (telephone number 228-875-5912) is the contact person for the Commission.

In an effort to reduce the duplication of efforts, the CAC members should become more involved in state meetings. Additionally, the importance of having all five representatives from each state at every CAC meeting was stressed. Therefore, it is imperative to have all vacant CAC positions filled as soon as possible.

A draft of the Presidential Executive Order pertaining to the Gulf of Mexico Program was passed out to members. A consensus was reached that the Executive Order should pass with a recommendation to include a representative from Fisheries and Tourism on the Executive Council of the Gulf of Mexico Program. These issues will be reviewed by the PRB on November 12, 2002.

## **9. Election of CAC Officers**

Jim Kachtick asked if there was a consensus to eliminate the position of Secretary, versus having it for ceremonial purposes only. Consensus was not reached. The Secretary position will continue through 2003.

Brian Grantham was nominated for Chair. None opposed.

Robert Crowe was nominated for Vice Chair. None opposed.

Patty Caranna was nominated for Secretary. None opposed.

Election is final.

## **10. Gulf Restoration Network Presentation**

Cynthia Sarthou, Executive Director, Gulf Restoration Network

There are 41 Groups involved in the network from the Gulf States. The Gulf Restoration Network has three ongoing programs focusing on Water Quality:

1. Wetland Loss associated with Army Corps of Engineers projects. They are working to reform policy to ensure mitigation, compliance and monitoring.
2. National Dead Zone (area of low oxygen in the Gulf) policy's effect on water quality and how farm and environmental policies affect the reduction of nitrogen coming down the Mississippi River. It is also active in trying to get interested communities involved in their water quality by providing training in clean-up.
3. Maintaining sustainable fisheries stock. Ensuring the maintenance of sustainable fish stocks by working with commercial/recreational fisheries, protection of endangered species, and mercury contamination assessments and advisements to the public.

Ms. Sarthou's presentation is included as Attachment F.

## **11. 2003 Meeting Calender**

The potential meeting dates for next year were discussed: a spring meeting in February/March could be held in conjunction with the Management Committee meeting, and the second meeting could be held in June in conjunction with the Comprehensive Meeting.

State Project meetings are invaluable for CAC members to attend and therefore could replace one of the CAC meetings if members so choose. A consensus was reached that it is difficult for members to feel prepared for the CAC meetings without attending a state meeting prior to it.

The meeting schedule under question came to two choices:

1. Continue with three CAC meetings annually (Spring, Summer, Fall).
  2. Attend respective state meetings in lieu of the Spring CAC meeting and continue with the Summer and Fall CAC meetings.
  3. Continue with three CAC meetings and also attend the respective state meeting (note: the state meeting may not be supported by the GMPO if three CAC meetings are held).
- A poll will be taken of all members and alternates to find out their preference.

## **12. CAC Wrap-Up**

Jim Kachtick brought up the issue of gaps in membership/attendance. State leaders need to communicate with their delegation to fill the vacant membership positions as soon as possible.

Thanks to Jenell Tompkins for the wonderful dinner on Wednesday night sponsored by the Hancock County Board of Supervisors. At the request of the CAC, Jenell was asked to forward the addresses of the mayor and speaker so that the CAC members could send their thanks (and request recipes!). Jenell will forward the addresses to the GMPO and Melissa Manley will distribute them to the members.

# **Attachment A**



**Follow-up Action Item Summary**  
**Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**November 6-7, 2002**

<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>LEAD(s):</b>	<b>STATUS:</b>
1. Submit Louisiana Wetland Resolution to the Policy Review Board.	D. Puffer /GMPO	Approved by PRB 12/12/02
2. Natural Gas Pipeline update for the March 2003 Meeting	D. Puffer /GMPO	
3. Presentation on the Issue Committee for Marine Litter for the March Meeting	D. Puffer /GMPO	
4. Send reminders to members regarding the website when new things are posted	M. Manley	As needed
5. GMP Presentation to CAC members	M. Manley/D. Puffer	Final Draft Completed 12/23/2002
6. Thank you letter to Terry Teague	M. Manley	Completed 11/14/02
7. Addresses for Mayor and speaker of the Hancock County Board of Supervisors dinner, Nov. 6, 2002	M. Manley / GMPO	Completed 11/13/02
8. Poll CAC member for 2003 meeting option	M. Manley	Completed 12/5/2002

## **Attachment B**

Gulf of Mexico Program  
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Bay Towers Hotel and Conference Center  
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi  
November 6-7, 2002

**AGENDA**

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*Wednesday, November 6*

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1:45-1:00 | CAC Members Networking Luncheon   |
| 1:00-1:20 | Opening Remarks/Introductions<br>Review and approval of November 7-8, 2001 and June 11-13,<br>2002 Meeting Summaries<br><i>Jim Kachtick, Chair</i>  |
| 1:20-1:45 | Chair Report<br><i>Jim Kachtick, Chair</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow-up on CAC Action Items</li></ul>  |
| 1:45-2:15 | CAC Projects Report<br><i>Jennyfer Smith, Battelle</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coastal Bird Trail FFA Environmental Speech Project</li><li>• GMP Presentation for CAC Members</li><li>• CAC Web Page and Status of Bulletin Board</li></ul> |
| 2:15-2:30 | Break   |
| 2:30-3:15 | Presentation: Dockwatch Update (Jellyfish)<br><i>Dr. William Graham, Dauphin Island Sea Lab</i>   |
| 3:15-5:00 | Casino Magic Golf Course Gulf Guardian Award Video<br>Golf Course Tour  |
| Evening   | Dinner Sponsored by Hancock County Board of Supervisors   |

Thursday, November 7

7:30-8:30	Continental Breakfast
8:30-9:15	GMP Director's Report <i>Bryan Griffith, GMPO Associate Director</i>
9:15-9:45	Election of Officers
9:45-10:30	Members Roundtable and Participation Reports
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:30	Presentation on the Gulf Restoration Network <i>Cynthia Sarthou, Gulf Restoration Network</i>
11:15-11:30	Meeting Calendar for 2003
11:30-12:00	Citizens Advisory Committee Wrap-up Discussion and Recommendations
12:00	Adjourn

# **ATTACHMENT C**

**Attendee List**  
Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting  
November 6-7, 2002

Mr. David Alex (Alternate)  
Alex and Associates International  
P.O. Box 531300  
Harlingen, TX 78553  
FedEx: 920 W. Van Buren  
Harlingen, TX 78550  
(956) 425-7007 Fax: (956) 425-7121  
Email: aaidea@aol.com

Ms. Casi L. Callaway  
Executive Director  
Mobile Bay Watch, Inc.  
3280 Dauphin Street, Suite C-104  
Mobile, AL 36606-4051  
(251) 476-0328 Fax: (251) 476-0329  
Email: callaway@mobilebaywatch.org

Ms. Patty Caranna (Alternate)  
Environment, Mississippi  
2147 Floyd Drive  
Biloxi, MS 39531  
(228) 388-6438 Fax: (228) 388-6196

Ms. Rebecca H. Clayton (Alternate)  
Tourism, Florida  
Director of Education  
The Florida Aquarium  
701 Channelside Drive  
Tampa, FL 33602  
(813) 367-4017 Fax: (813) 273-4161  
Email: bclayton@flaquarium.org

Mr. Robert Crowe, CAC Vice-Chair  
Supervisor  
Corporate Real Estate-Mobile Division  
Alabama Power Company  
150 St. Joseph Street  
Mobile, AL 36652-2247  
(251) 694-2391 Fax: (251) 694-2430  
Email: rhcrowe@southernco.com

Mr. Brian Grantham, CAC Vice-Chair  
Agriculture, Alabama  
Teacher, Agriculture  
Foley High School  
17380 Charolais Road

Foley, AL 36535  
(251) 943-1486 Fax: (251) 943-3538  
Home: (251) 943-8267  
Email: bgrantham@bcbe.org

Mr. James W. Kachtick, CAC Chair  
Business/Industry, Texas  
9035 Hendon Lane  
Houston, TX 77036  
(713) 772-2598 Fax: (713) 772-2598  
Email: Jkachtick@aol.com

Mr. Donald Lirette  
7083 Grand Caillou Road  
Dulac, LA 70353  
(985) 563-7009 Fax: (985) 563-7009  
Email: lirt6@boosterweb.net

Mr. Paul Maclean  
Agriculture, Louisiana  
President  
Maclean Land Services, Inc.  
P. O. Box 3620  
Houma, LA 70361  
(985) 868-4963 Fax: (985) 851-6951  
Email: mls@cajun.net

Mr. Erich Schneider (Alternate)  
Agriculture, Texas  
Erich Schneider Farms  
Rt. 1, Box 140  
Sinton, TX 78387  
(361) 364-4442 Fax: (361) 364-5064  
Email: eps @2fords.net

Mr. Thomas Schultz  
Fisheries, Mississippi  
Maintenance Technician  
Coastal Research and Extension Center  
Mississippi State University  
2710 Beach Boulevard, Suite 1-E  
Biloxi, MS 39531  
(228) 388-4710 Fax: (228) 388-1375

Secretary's Email:  
yvonnev@ext.msstate.edu

Ms. Linda Shead (Alternate)  
The Trust for Public Land  
Houston/Galveston Office  
1113 Vine Street, Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 226-7200 Fax: (713) 226-7229  
Email: linda.shead@tpl.org

Ms. Jenell Tompkins (Alternate)  
Hancock County Board of Supervisors  
P. O. Box 429  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
(228) 467-0172 Fax: (228) 466-5994  
Email: jvt@co.hancock.ms.us

Ms. Jean Westbrook  
Environment, Louisiana  
Women for A Better Louisiana  
6600 Wilty Street  
Metairie, LA 70003  
(504) 887-9480 Fax: (504) 887-9480  
Email: jtwdrw@hotmail.com

Mr. J. R. Wilson  
Business/Industry, Mississippi  
709 Washington Avenue  
Pascagoula, MS 39567  
(228) 762-7264 Fax: (228) 696-2971  
Email: salliebelle@peoplepc.com

781-952-5398 Fax: 781-952-5369  
Email: smithjk@battelle.org

Ms. Melissa Manley  
Program Assistant  
Battelle  
397 Washington Street  
Duxbury, MA 02332  
781-952-5365 Fax: 781-952-5369  
Email: manley@battelle.org

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## **SUPPORT TO CAC**

Mr. Drew Puffer  
CAC Liaison  
Gulf of Mexico Program Office  
Mail Code: EPA/GMPO  
Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000  
(228) 688-1156 Fax: (228) 688-2709  
Email: puffer.drew@epa.gov

Ms. Jennyfer Smith  
Program Assistant  
Battelle  
397 Washington Street  
Duxbury, MA 02332

## **Attachment D**



## **Attachment E**

## **Attachment F**